

Appl. No. 10/089,342
Atty. Docket No. CM2212MQL
Amdt. dated July 28, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 28, 2003
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims 19 and 41 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 18, 20, 21, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, and 57 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to require that a permeable substrate layer be bonded to the back face of the film. Support for the Amendment to Claim 1 can be found in the Specification on page 16, lines 6-10, as originally filed. Claim 21 has been amended to require that the adherent sheet material comprise, *inter alia*, a permeable film having front and back faces. Support for the Amendment to Claim 21 is found on page 16, lines 22-25 of the Specification, as originally filed. Claim 40 has been amended to require that a porous substrate layer be bonded to the back face of the film material. Support for the current Amendment to Claim 40 can be found in original Claim 41 and page 16, lines 22-25, of the Specification, as originally filed. Claims 18 and 20 have been amended to reflect proper antecedent basis. Claims 42, 43, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, and 57 have been amended to reflect proper claim dependency due to Applicants' cancellation of Claim 41. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-40, and 42-57 remain in this Application and are presented for the Examiner's reconsideration in light of the above Amendments and the following comments.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Turning now to the rejections of the Claims, Claims 1-4 and 6-57 have been finally rejected over Calhoun, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,589,246 in view of Blanc-Brude, U.S. Patent No. 5,906,883. Claims 1-4 and 6-57 have been finally rejected over Hamilton, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,589,246 in view of *Blanc-Brude*. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Applicants believe the Examiner's intention is to refer to Hamilton, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,871,607 rather than 5,589,246. As the Examiner is aware, U.S. Patent No. 5,589,246 refers to *Calhoun* and not *Hamilton*. Thus, Applicants' response reflects arguments over the *Hamilton* reference, U.S. Patent No. 5,662,758.

For the sake of brevity, previous arguments regarding the *Calhoun*, *Blanc-Brude* and *Hamilton* references remain in effect and will not be repeated. Additionally, the Examiner is respectfully urged to consider the following additional matters that distinguish Applicants' claimed invention as now presented over *Calhoun*, *Blanc-Brude* and *Hamilton*.

1. Applicants' invention, as now claimed in Claim 1, requires that a permeable substrate layer be bonded to the back face of the claimed film. Applicants' Claim 21 requires that the adherent sheet material comprise, *inter alia*, a permeable film. Applicants' Claim 40 requires that a porous substrate be bonded to the back face of the claimed film.

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2. All of the references cited by the Examiner (i.e., *Calhoun, Blanc-Brude, and Hamilton*) are silent regarding forming a sheet material from a permeable film or bonding a permeable or porous substrate layer film, as claimed by Applicants.

3. Applicants believe that bonding a permeable or porous substrate layer to the back face of the film material or providing a sheet material comprising a permeable film provides the surprising result of facilitating the removal of entrapped air due to the collapse of the claimed protrusions. *See Specification, page 16, lines 1-10.*

Because of these considerations, the *Calhoun, Blanc-Brude, and Hamilton* references do not suggest Applicants' claimed adherent sheet material. The *Calhoun, Blanc-Brude, and Hamilton*, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, suggest, or render obvious every recited feature of Applicants' Claim 1, 21, and 40. Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection to Applicants' Claim 1, 21, and 40.

Because Claims 2-4, 6-18, 20, 22-39, and 42-57 all depend directly or indirectly from Applicants' independent Claims 1, 21, or 40, they contain all of their respective limitations. For this reason, Applicants submit that the arguments made above concerning the allowability of Claims 1, 21, and 40 are equally applicable to the rejection of Claims 2-4, 6-18, 20, 22-39, and 42-57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection to dependent Claims 2-4, 6-18, 20, 22-39, and 42-57.

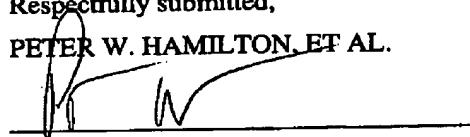
Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that each of Applicants' remaining claims is in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is requested.

This response is timely filed pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and M.P.E.P. §512, and no fee is believed due. However, if any additional charges are due, the Examiner is hereby authorized to deduct such charge from Deposit Account No. 16-2480 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company.

Respectfully submitted,

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